

First Principles.

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June 10, 1976 The CIA agreed again to put a halt to its destruction of intelligence records, pending a decision by the new Senate Intelligence Committee. The destruction had resumed earlier in the month with the close of the Church committee investigation, but was opposed by Congressional critics who feared the destruction of records of past abuses. In related developments on June 11, District Judge June Green ordered the CIA to halt all destruction of documents in its Operation CHAOS files pending the resolution of *Halkin v. Helms*; the CIA agreed not to destroy any files related to its infiltration of domestic organizations in order to protect its security until it acts on a pending FOIA request for those files. (*New York Times*, 6/11/76, p. 4, and 6/17/76, p. 6)

June 11, 1976 The Senate Judiciary Committee, by a vote of 11-1, approved an amended version of the Ford Administration's national security wiretap bill (S. 3197). The bill is an improvement over the original proposal made in March, but it still leaves open the possibility of discretionary wiretapping of American citizens suspected of engaging in "clandestine intelligence activities," which includes non-criminal activities. On August

10th the Senate Intelligence Committee tentatively approved a substantially revised draft of the bill. (*New York Times*, 6/17/76, p. 25)

June 16, 1976 The National Security Council released portions of the "Secret Charter" of the intelligence agencies sought in an FOIA suit. The released documents include the NSC's Intelligence Directives (or NSCID's) which form the operational basis of the CIA since 1947. Claiming that release of the Senate Intelligence Committee's final report made disclosure of the NSCIDs possible, the NSC apparently reversed its position that their release would "jeopardize national security." Significantly, the documents contain nothing that would seem to require secrecy and thus the disclosure raises serious questions concerning the propriety of the executive's claims of the national security exemption. (*Washington Post*, 6/17/76, p. A2)

June 24, 1976 The CIA acknowledged that the FBI made a "mistake" in sending it a report on a peaceful American Indian Movement demonstration held in early June in which demonstrators carried placards denouncing the CIA. The FBI had previously agreed to end the practice of

providing the CIA with domestic intelligence material. (*Washington Star*, 6/25/76, p. 4)

June 29, 1976 With the prodding of Rep. Bella Abzug's Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, the IRS agreed to begin notifying 775 out of the 11,458 taxpayers who were the targets of its now defunct Special Services Staff. IRS Commissioner Donald Alexander says that those notified can receive the information contained in SSS files without making FOIA requests. (*New York Times*, 6/30/76, p. C17)

August 1, 1976 In a letter released by Rep. Bella Abzug, Chairperson of the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Civil Rights, Attorney General Levi indicated that 19 victims of past FBI harassment will be notified by the Justice Department, and that in 71 other cases notice had been found to be inappropriate. Abzug stated that notification of "only 19 of thousands" who were targeted by the FBI's COINTEL Program was "thoroughly inadequate." She announced plans to press for passage of H.R. 12039, which would require notification of all subjects of such programs. (*Washington Post*, 8/1/76, p. A6)

In The News

It is at all times necessary, and more particularly so during the progress of a revolution and until right ideas confirm themselves by habit, that we frequently refresh our patriotism by reference to first principles.

THOMAS PAINE